



The Bulletin

Published by the Society of the New York Hospital

Vol. 2.

OCTOBER 1936

Issue 6

- 165 YEARS AGO -

At a meeting of the Governors of the New York Hospital held at Bolton's Tavern on Monday the 28th of October 1771.

The Order of the 29 August last relating to the Mode of Collecting Subscriptions being deemed insufficient in Amendment thereto it is further Ordered

That any person who within six months shall subscribe not less than Fifteen Pounds shall be a member of this Society and that this resolution be Annexed to all the subscription papers, and for the greater ease in making collections in this City the following Gentlemen being Members of this Corporation are Nominated as Committees to solicit subscriptions in the several Wards Viz—

Mr. Hicks, Mr. Peter Van Brugh Livingston, Mr. Beekman, Mr. Peter Goelet and Mr. Bache for the East Ward.

Mr. Walter Franklin, Mr. George Bowne, Mr. Kortright, Mr. Foliot, Mr. Isaac Sears, and Mr. Jacob Watson, for Montgomery Ward.

Mr. McAdam, Alderman Gautier, Mr. Isaac Low, Mr. Gerardus Duyckinck, Mr. Crooke, Mr. Barclay and Mr. Gab. H. Ludlow for the Dock Ward.

Mr. Watts, Mr. David Clarkson, Mr. Recorder, Mr. John Abeel, Mr. John H. Cruger and Mr. McIvers for the South Ward.

Mr. Philip Livingston, Alderman Brewerton, Mr. Abraham Mesier, Mr. Thomas Smith, Mr. Aug't. Cortlandt, Mr. Weatherhead and Mr. S. Broome, West Ward.

Mr. Axtell, Ald. Brewerton, Mr. Huggett, Mr. Rich. Morris, Mr. Verplanck and Mr. LeRoy for the North Ward.

Mr. Lispanard, Ald. Dyckman, Mr. William Bayard, Mr. John T. Cortlandt, Mr. Henry Rutgers and Mr. Gerard DePeyster for the Out Ward.

Mr. Clarkson, Messrs. Livingston & Dr. Jones having engaged to request the Clergy of the different Denominations to recommend this Charity from the Pulpit to their respective Congregations on Sunday next, the several Committees above named are desired to begin to solicit Subscriptions on the Monday following.

NOTICE

Cornell University Medical Research Society

The second regular meeting of the Cornell University Medical Research Society for the year 1936-37 will be held on November 9th at 8:15 p.m., in the Auditorium, 1300 York Avenue.

Program:

- I. "A Comparison of a Series of Wassermann and Kline Tests in Respect to Specificity and Sensitivity."

Dr. Ralph G. Stillman

- II. "Experiments in the Pharmacology of Muscle Tonus with Special Refer-

ence to Myasthenia and Myotonia." Drs. Foster Kennedy and Alexander Wolf

III. "Studies on the Prostate Gland." Dr. Robert A. Moore and Messrs. H. Rosenbloom, S. Tolins and J. J. Smith.

Herbert F. Traut,
Secretary

MEDICAL COLLEGE YEARBOOK

For the first time in the history of Cornell University Medical College, the graduating class is going to publish a yearbook. After much careful deliberation, the name selected for the annual was "The Samaritan." This was chosen primarily because it signified that aspect of the physician with which every Cornell graduate wishes to be identified but a not inconsiderable factor in the choice was the inspiring seal of the New York Hospital, now so intimately connected with the medical college.

"The Samaritan" will contain material of interest to everyone connected with the Cornell University Medical College, and the New York Hospital. This will be of three types, photographic, historical and informative.

The photographs will include:

1. A great many striking views of the Hospital and the Medical College, both exterior and interior. Many of these will be full page pictures.
2. Studio portraits of the faculty of the college. These will include portraits of both the full professors and the professors emeriti, and of the associate professors, if possible. Here will be found the Chiefs of the Services.
3. Informal "candid camera shots" of these same chiefs and teachers, as they lecture or visit the wards, or as they work in the laboratories.
4. Studio portraits of the graduating class of the medical college.
5. Scores of group pictures, including (a) pictures of the other classes of the college, and (b) pictures of the several student organizations.
6. Full group pictures of the several Department staffs of the Hospital and Medical College e.g. Pediatrics, Physiology and of the resident and interne staff.

An especially interesting and valuable part of the yearbook will be a photographic history of the hospital and the medical college. This will be illustrated by reproductions of old prints and rare photographs, and will be carried down from the very beginning to the present time. The closing chapter will unfold the development of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical College Association, with the architects' visions taking form in the building of the huge center. The steps in the construction of the buildings will be shown together with the plans for expansion including sketches of the newer hospitals and health centers soon to be erected.

Along with the pictures of each department of the hospital and medical college will go a description of the notable work already accomplished and the work in progress and the exact role played in the Association.

Of course, the students, faculty and alumni of Cornell will have a unique interest in this first annual publication. It is planned, however, that the scope especially from the standpoint of photography will be so inclusive that no person on the secretarial, clerical, resident or attending staffs could fail to be attracted to this issue of the yearbook.

The tentative Editorial and Business boards are as follows:—

EDITORIAL

Editor-in-chief

PUTNAM C. KENNEDY

Associate Editors

EDWIN T. WILLIAMS (Photographic)

EUGENE L. LOZNER RAYMOND SCHWARTZ

Assistant Editors

IRA GORE

HELEN J. NEAVE

CARLETON M. CORNELL

BUSINESS

Business Manager

DONALD T. DODGE

Associate Business Managers

HENRY S. BLAKE (Advertising)

FAYETTE K. STROUD (Circulation)

KINGSLEY BISHOP

WILLIAM T. FOLEY

ADVISORY

Dean Dayton J. Edwards

Professor Robert A. Moore

The price of "The Samaritan" during the advance subscription sale which is now going on is \$2.50. To non-subscribers, the price at issue will be \$3.50.

Subscriptions may be purchased from any member of the staff or from the office of "The Samaritan," F-102, any weekday between 1 and 2 P.M. or by sending a check payable to Donald T. Dodge, Cornell University Medical College, 1300 York Avenue.

The Cornell students, especially of the lower classes, may be interested to learn that several positions on the staff are still open and that the services of any student will be welcomed.

In a like manner, suggestions from anyone in the Association concerning content, circulation or advertising will be most gratefully received. These may be sent to Mr. Putnam C. Kennedy, at the College.

Subsequent announcements concerning "The Samaritan" will be made frequently both here and on the bulletin boards. In the meantime, let everyone subscribe within the next few weeks, for the more advanced subscriptions sold the better and the more inclusive will be the year book.

E. L. L.

THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Hidden away in the basement directly under the offices of the Administrator-in-Chief and the Superintendent, unseen but not unheard by the thousands who swarm through the institution, is the Central Office of the Hospital Telephone Service.

The New York Telephone Company estimates that this service could supply the needs of a city of five thousand people.

A lay observer may be pardoned for feeling that the professional has underestimated the possibilities when certain figures developed since the opening of the Hospital are considered.

To begin with, the Hospital equipment consists of no less than six switchboards, three information tables and three auxiliary switchboards located in different parts of the institution. The internal dial system embraces over twelve hundred extensions which cover offices, wards, supply rooms, private patients' rooms, kitchens, dining rooms and so on ad infinitum.

The outside world is tied into the Hospital by twenty-five lines, a number which was considered ample when the service was inaugurated. The ensuing years, however, have often seen the entire network in use during rush hours and it may be necessary to install additional lines to guard against delays.

A recent survey shows that approximately four hundred and fifty signals are answered by the Central Office during an average busy hour. This total breaks down into 35% outgoing calls and 70% incoming messages.

The information desks keep pace with the Central Office, answering some eighty calls in a busy hour, a service which also involves paging doctors and supervisors, giving the location of patients and relaying messages.

The inter-communicating system, which links office with office, handles a daily average of over nine thousand calls each day.

A staff of twelve operate this service, maintaining a twenty-four hour service at the main switchboard and twelve hour service at the information desks.

Four operators cover the switchboard at all times. Maintenance and repair are under the supervision of two representatives of the New York Telephone Company, who are permanently stationed in the Hospital.

M. A. M.

DISTRIBUTION

The Bulletin is distributed from the following points: the Dining Rooms and Cafeterias (not including the O. P. D. Lunch Counter); the Nurses Residence Lobby; the Hospital Gift Shop; the Doctors Cloak Room, F-129; the Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic; Bloomingdale Hospital.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICE

The Student Health Service is provided for the care of medical students in an effort to protect their health and personal welfare.

The Student Health staff consists of three physicians, and the administrative secretary, Miss Gill.

Beginning October 5, 1936, office hours will be held daily from 1-2 P.M., except Saturdays and Sundays, in the new quarters provided for this purpose, Room D-103.

It is expected that whenever possible, students will limit medical calls to office hours. Medical aid at other times may be arranged by Miss Gill or in her absence, through the Emergency Pavilion.

Students are requested to report all illnesses to the Student Health Service or administrative office, so that records of the incidence and duration of diseases may be kept and the health of students in so far as possible, controlled.

All health records are held strictly confidential.

It should be particularly noted that beyond the routine health examinations and the recording of illnesses and the procedure followed, the College does not require students to seek attention from its staff. A student is free to consult any physician he may wish. A student seeking consultation or treatment from the New York Hospital staff at the Hospital or services from the Hospital, however, **MUST BE REFERRED BY A STUDENT HEALTH PHYSICIAN.**

The general plan evolved for the care of the students provides:

1. Routine health examinations for new students and fourth year students. Entering students will be examined as early in the school year as possible. The fourth year students will be examined in the latter half of the year. Health examinations will include hemoglobin determinations and routine urine examinations. All classes (first, second, third and fourth years) will have yearly chest x-rays.

Appointments for health examinations and routine chest x-rays are made through the secretary, Miss Gill. No charge is made to the student for these examinations.

Each new student is assigned a New York Hospital history number which will be affixed to all x-rays and other hospital records. This number is placed upon the student's identification card which also bears his name and stamp of the College. It should be carried at all times for purposes of identification.

2. Office hours are held by the college physicians for:

- a) ordinary health calls,
- b) follow-up of remediable defects noted during health examinations or health calls, convalescent calls,
- c) the referring of cases which cannot adequately be taken care of by the Student Health Service to clinics or specialists.

No physician on the staff of the New York Hospital or Medical College has ever made a charge to a student for his services. The New York Hospital may, however, make charges for services rendered. Ultra-violet light therapy is given free of charge when students are referred by physicians of the Health service. There will be no charge for laboratory services by the Central Laboratories to students where requisitions are made by Student Health physicians. Laboratory services requested by doctors not connected with the student Health unit or by students themselves will be charged to the student.

A current progress sheet in a referring envelope is sent with the student referred for special examination or treatment, or for consultation. On this sheet is given the reason for requesting the consultation and the signature of the referring physician. The examining or consulting physician will always make a note upon this sheet and return it to the Chief of the Health Service.

Emergency wounds or other emergency conditions will be cared for in the Accident Pavilion, L-013, Extension 487. The New York Hospital makes a charge for such service, of fifty cents a visit.

Students requiring hospitalization outside of office hours will apply to the Accident Pavilion. The resident surgeon or physician delegated to give personal attention to students requiring hospitalization will be called. When the medical necessity for hospitalization is determined, the student will undergo the usual routine of a patient for admission, using the New York Hospital number assigned to him upon admission to the College.

Hospital charges for students admitted to the pavilions are \$4.00 per day, which does not include extras. On extras, except those requiring an actual cash outlay by the hospital, adjustments may be made in cases where their financial position makes it difficult for students to pay the extras. Students wishing a private room are charged the usual rates for private patients.

THE ALUMNI ROOM

In July 1935, the Board of Governors filled a very real need by designating Room F-110, formerly the Museum, as a central office for our three alumni groups—the New York Hospital, the Lying-In Hospital and Cornell University Medical College. The office, which is open week days from one o'clock to five o'clock is in charge of Mrs. Mary T. Webb, who acts as Secretary for the three groups.

A large number of group photographs of by-gone staffs of the Lying-In Hospital have been framed and hung on the office walls. These groups range in date from 1903 to 1929. There are also photographs of Dr. Asa Barnes Davis and Dr. James Wright Markoe who were outstanding figures in the history of the Lying-In Hospital. The Cornell alumni have provided a huge banner of Cornell scarlet.

Alumni wishing to contribute photographs should communicate with Mrs. Webb. (Extension 7215).

—o—

A STUDENT NURSE'S DAY

Most days are alike in a student nurse's routine. To an outsider, knowing only of this routine, it may seem boring; a day only of work and study, apparently, but really a day of fascinating experiences, unexpected emergencies, and the study of subjects that bring us closer to an understanding of man as a physical and mental entity.

The usual girl entering this field has already determined to leave one type of life and to enter upon another entirely different. The adjustment is hard. Many times she wavers and looks back longingly at the superficial and effortless life which she had known. For a nurse's life is real—horribly real sometimes. It is a life in which she must face the facts and thus gradually acquire a new sense of values. At times she finds this metamorphosis hard to understand.

Many, upon entering, were immature, some lacking in poise, and some, older and more experienced, were looking for their places in life. To all, nursing has been found to be the means to an end, whether it be the service of others or the justification of her own life.

The usual day begins in response to a chorus of alarm clocks at six in the morning. However reluctant she may be, the student must jump up to reach breakfast, cafeteria-

style, at six-thirty. This done she joins the morning parade of nurses to reach the pavilion by five minutes before seven. Then, in logical sequence, the day progresses; the morning conference, breakfast trays to carry, beds to make, baths to give, and treatments to do. There is no time to stop and think of herself, but only of the patients and the work to be done. Work is drudgery only when a student fails to include it in her whole scheme of learning. Rather, it means associating with people who believe implicitly in the nurse, confide in her, and, in doing so, demand every moment of her time, her tact and discretion, as well as her physical skill. Often she is tired, becomes irritable, and finds it hard to smile with her usual good-will; but personal troubles are insignificant if compared to those of the patient.

Probably the hardest adjustment to her work is that of learning to take orders, and accepting criticism without question. For hers is the role of learning the profession. Strict obedience to her superiors is essential, for, unlike other professions, she cannot learn by trial and error because she is dealing with human life. If improperly understood and interpreted this role tends to develop a feeling of inferiority.

Lunch time means a break in the day, a rush to the dining-room, not from lack of time but because she is keyed up to a high pitch and unable to relax immediately.

Usually the student has two to four hours to herself during the day, hours which assume disproportionate value. She needs relaxation and outdoor exercise, but all too often she chooses to study or sleep rather than make the effort necessary to going out. In a city of color and fascination she is often too tired to leave her room.

Whether she has read a lecture, taken a nap, or walked to Central Park, the student returns to her nursing practise refreshed by the brief change. It is not a return to drudgery but a return to activity that demands clean thinking and patience, attributes that a life of unbroken work cannot give.

During the late afternoon and early evening hours the nurse helps patients with supper, rubs their backs, and sees that they are made comfortable for sleep. It is a busy time in which the affairs of the day must be closed, the clerical work completed on the charts, and the pavilion made ready for the evening nurses.

Dinner is a time for gradual relaxation, a

time to see friends missed in the precise workings of the day, and a time to make tentative plans for the evening, again facing the question of study or recreation.

And thus to bed, usually tired, mentally and physically. Tomorrow another day, very much like today in routine, but to hold in store for her some new and exciting experiences apparently so insignificant that she does not thrill to them at the moment, but which leaves a lasting impression on her mind, and accumulate to make for an absorption in and unconscious enjoyment of her work.

M. K. '38

J. K. '38

—o—

PNUMATIC TUBE SERVICE

Twenty-four hours a day, each day of the year, the Hospital's tube system shuttles its brass carriers back and forth between all parts of the entire plant below the eighteenth floor, shuttles a never ending flow of case-histories, memoranda, requisitions, instructions, links up operation, maintenance, supply of the lay and the professional phases of this institution.

Four and one-half miles of brass tubing, four inches in diameter are required for this vital service. Or, if one flinches from precise measurements, the tube system in a single unit would reach from the spot where ground was first broken for the pre-Revolutionary hospital on lower Broadway to its twentieth century off-spring on 68th Street.

A diagram of the routes along which a six inch vacuum shoots the three hundred carriers calls to mind a drawing of a nervous system, a maze of arteries. From the great central station, hidden away in the basement Record Room, no less than forty-two tubes fan out: from the sub-station in the basement of N. Building, a total of twenty-one. The Power-House is equipped with four, and the Payne Whitney Clinic, smallest but by no means the least important, with one.

During the night the tube system is in partial operation to permit communication with the Woman's Clinic and the Central Station, but it really wakes and comes to full life as morning brings the resumption of the full activities of the Hospital.

As offices open, clinics fill, operations begin, the carriers hiss endlessly through the tubes, reaching the maximum pitch by mid-afternoon and subsiding in the early evening. On an average day between 8 A.M. and 5 P.M. there will pass through the tubes more than five thousand carriers, showing

what little rest each of the three hundred are given.

Could the end which this great system serves be replaced by messengers? The answer is not far to seek. A carrier was started from the Central Station to the highest point, to the seventeenth floor. An impartial stop-watch recorded an elapsed time of only thirteen seconds. To afford a comparison, a passenger elevator was sent between the same floors, making no stops, and the stop-watch registered an elapsed time of twenty-seven and one-half seconds. Experts estimate that it would require a minimum staff of twenty-five messengers, in addition to those now employed to meet the barest necessary requirements of the institution in the main building alone.

Carriers are impersonal things and hence are not subject to human frailties and weaknesses. They do not loiter on the way, nor do they stop to chat with each other en route. But equally they do not possess mobility of their own, nor initiative, and if not removed from the receiver, or sent back to their destination by those responsible, their usefulness ends for an indefinite period. To avoid such side trackings, the Tube Service requests that all in-coming carriers be immediately removed from the receiver, and that carriers not belonging to the station in question be returned to the proper destination at once, as failure to do so materially hampers the proper servicing of the Hospital.

SMOKING

On the recommendation of the Medical Board, the Board of Governors has ruled that no smoking by hospital staff or hospital employees will be permitted in corridors, elevators, pavilions, autopsy rooms, or operating rooms.

The cooperation of all the personnel in the hospital organization is requested in seeing to it that this ruling is strictly observed

THE CORRECT NAME

Both the New York Hospital and Cornell University Medical College are in danger of being injured by popularization of the term "Cornell Medical Center". There is no such institution as "Cornell Medical Center" and under existing laws there is grave danger that a bequest to the "center" could not be collected either by the Hospital or by the College. Each institution should be referred to by its proper name.

EXTRA COPIES

Those wishing extra copies of The Bulletin may obtain them by applying at the office of the Secretary, G-111.